

Docket No. JJM-381

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Watt et al.

Serial No. : 09/164,793

Art Unit: 3721

Filed : October 1, 1998

Examiner: Gary Jacks

For : BIOPOLYMER SPONGE TUBES, SURGICAL STAPLERS AND  
METHODS OF USE THEREOF

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

May 1, 2000

(Date)

Theodore J. Shatynski

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

*Theodore J. Shatynski*

(Signature)

May 1, 2000

(Date of Signature)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**LETTER**

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Notice of Abandonment mailed April 24, 2000. The Notice of Abandonment states that the subject application became abandoned because no response had been received to the Office Action mailed on September 15, 1999.

3721

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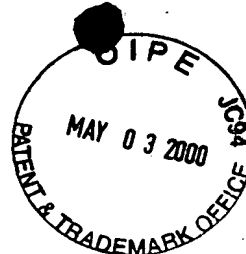
This Notice of Abandonment is respectfully requested to be withdrawn without Petition for Revival as Applicants did in fact provide a timely response mailed December 14, 1999. A copy of the response with USPTO date stamped return postcard (dated December 16, 1999) is enclosed.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this further, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore J. Shatynski  
Theodore J. Shatynski  
Reg No. 36,676  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003  
(732) 524-2498  
May 1, 2000



SERIAL NO. 09/164,793 DOCKET NO. JJM-381 BY TJS  
APPLICATION OF Paul W. Watt et al. MAILED: 12-14-99  
ENTITLED Biopolymer Sponge Tubes, Surgical Staplers and..

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE U.S. PATENT OFFICE ON THE DATE STAMPED HEREON:

- |   |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AFFIDAVIT                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLARATION | <input type="checkbox"/> EXTENSION OF TIME                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT                                    |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTICE OF APPEAL                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASSIGNMENT FOR RECORDING                     |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> OATH OR <input type="checkbox"/> DECLARATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRIEF  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> POWER OF ATTORNEY                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHARGE TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 10-0750 |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> PRELIMINARY STATEMENT                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRAWINGS                                     |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIORITY DOCUMENT                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ISSUE FEE TRANSMITTAL                        |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> STATUS INQUIRY                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER                                       |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIFICATION _____ PGS                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PCT FILING                                   |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS _____                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IDS - FORM-1449                              |                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Response to</u>                |

FORM 1137-88 REV. 7/86

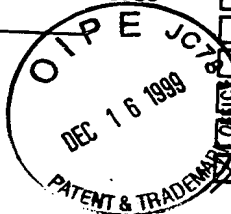
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| <input type="checkbox"/> IDS - FORM-1449                              |                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Response to</u>                |

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Response to  
O.A. mailed 9-15-99